

The invention in which an exclusive right is claimed is defined by the following:

1. A method for enabling a user to automatically introduce a plurality of thumbnail images into a Web page to represent a plurality of original images, each thumbnail image having a size that is substantially smaller than each corresponding original image, comprising the steps of:

- (a) enabling the user to select the plurality of original images that are to be represented on the Web page by the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (b) producing a thumbnail image from each original image;
- (c) determining a position of each thumbnail image on the Web page in accord with a format specified by a template;
- (d) automatically providing a hyperlink from each thumbnail image to each corresponding original image in the Web page; and
- (e) enabling the user to save the Web page which includes the plurality of thumbnail images and hyperlinks to the original images, each thumbnail image appearing in the position specified by the template when the Web page is displayed, selection of a thumbnail image and activation of a hyperlink associated with said thumbnail image causing the corresponding original image to be retrieved for display.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling a user to select the template from among a plurality of templates, each of said plurality of templates defining a different format with which said plurality of thumbnail images will be displayed on said Web page.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the plurality of templates include at least one of a vertically oriented template in which the thumbnail images are arrayed vertically, a horizontally oriented template in which the thumbnail images are arrayed horizontally, a slide show template, and a montage template.

4. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
- (a) enabling a user to define a custom template;
 - (b) enabling a user to save said custom template; and
 - (c) enabling a user to select said custom template to determine the format with which the plurality of thumbnail images are displayed on the Web page.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of templates comprises an extensible style language file.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of employing at least one of a default number of thumbnail images per row of the template, a default height for each thumbnail image, a default width for each thumbnail image, a title of the template, a description of the template, and a preview image file name.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) building a data manifest in extensible markup language that includes at least thumbnail data and hyperlink data;
- (b) loading an extensible style language file corresponding to the selected template; and
- (c) using said data manifest and said extensible style language file to generate a hypertext markup language (HTML) file defining said Web page.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of building a data manifest comprises the steps of:

- (a) including within the data manifest a thumbnail image height attribute; and
- (b) including within the data manifest a thumbnail image width attribute.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of building a data manifest further comprises at least one of the steps of:

- (a) including within the data manifest a file attribute;
- (b) including within the data manifest a caption element; and
- (c) including within the data manifest a description element.

10. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying a preview view of the Web page to a user; and
- (b) enabling a user to edit said Web page.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of enabling a user to edit said Web page comprises the steps of

(a) enabling a user to select a different one of said plurality of templates than was previously selected;

(b) automatically using said different one of the plurality of templates to generate an edited Web page that includes said plurality of thumbnail images, said plurality of thumbnail images being displayed according to formatting information provided by said different one of said plurality of templates;

(c) displaying a preview of the edited Web page to a user; and

(d) enabling a user to selectively perform at least one of the following:

(i) continuing to edit said edited Web page; and

(ii) saving the Web page that has been edited.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of enabling a user to edit said Web page comprises at least one of the steps of:

(a) enabling a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit;

(b) enabling a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to delete; and

(c) enabling a user to select at least one additional original image for which a corresponding thumbnail image and hyperlink will be automatically generated.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of enabling a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit comprises at least one of the steps of:

(a) enabling a user to resize said thumbnail image that was selected;

(b) enabling a user to crop said thumbnail image that was selected;

(c) enabling a user to rotate said thumbnail image that was selected;

(d) enabling a user to add a caption relating to said thumbnail image that was selected;

(e) enabling a user to delete an existing caption relating to said thumbnail image that was selected;

(f) enabling a user to modify an existing caption relating to said thumbnail image that was selected;

(g) enabling a user to add a description relating to said thumbnail image that was selected;

(h) enabling a user to delete an existing description relating to said thumbnail image that was selected; and

(i) enabling a user to modify an existing description relating to said thumbnail image that was selected.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of enabling a user to select at least one additional original image to include on said Web page comprises the step of enabling a user to drag and drop said at least one additional original image onto said Web page, and in response, automatically generating a corresponding thumbnail image for each additional original image, a hyperlink between said corresponding thumbnail and each additional original image, and adding said corresponding thumbnail and said hyperlink on said Web page.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of enabling a user to select the plurality of original images that are to be represented by the plurality of thumbnail images comprises at least one of the steps of:

(a) enabling a user to import a plurality of original images from at a storage;

(b) enabling a user to import a plurality of original images from a scanner; and

(c) enabling a user to import a plurality of original images from a digital image capturing device.

16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling a user to link Web pages that include thumbnail images together.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the step of enabling a user to link individual Web pages together comprises the step of enabling a user to add a navigation bar to each Web page to be linked together.

18. An article of manufacture adapted for use with a computer to enable a user to automatically introduce a plurality of thumbnail images into a Web page to represent a plurality of original images, each thumbnail image having a size that is substantially smaller than each corresponding original image, comprising:

- (a) a memory medium; and
- (b) a plurality of machine instructions stored on the memory medium, said plurality of machine instructions, when executed by a computer, causing the computer to:
 - (i) enable a user to select the plurality of original images that are to be represented on the Web page by the plurality of thumbnail images;
 - (ii) automatically produce a thumbnail image from each original image;
 - (iii) determine a position of each thumbnail image on the Web page in accord with a format specified by a template;
 - (iv) automatically providing a hyperlink from each thumbnail image to each corresponding original image in the Web page; and
 - (v) enable a user to save the Web page, which includes the plurality of thumbnail images and hyperlinks to the original images, each thumbnail image appearing in the position specified by the template when the Web page is displayed, selection of a thumbnail image and activation of a hyperlink associated with said thumbnail image causing the corresponding original image to be retrieved for display.

19. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to enable a user to select a template from among a plurality of templates, include at least one of a vertically oriented template in which the plurality of thumbnail image are arrayed vertically, a horizontally oriented template in which the plurality of thumbnail images are arrayed horizontally, a slide show oriented template, and a montage template.

20. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

- (a) enable a user to define a custom template;
- (b) enable a user to save said custom template; and
- (c) enable a user to select said custom template to determine a format for positioning the plurality of thumbnail images on the Web page.

21. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of templates comprises an extensible style language file.

22. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of templates includes at least one of: a default number of thumbnail images per row of the template, a default height of each thumbnail image, a default width of each thumbnail image, a title of the template, a description of the template, and a preview image file name.

23. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

- (a) build a data manifest in extensible markup language that includes at least thumbnail image data and hyperlink data;
- (b) load an extensible style language file corresponding to the selected the template; and
- (c) use said data manifest and said extensible style language file corresponding to the selected the template to generate a hypertext markup language (HTML) file defining said Web page.

24. The article of manufacture of Claim 23, wherein said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

- (a) include within the data manifest a thumbnail image height attribute; and
- (b) include within the data manifest a thumbnail image width attribute.

25. The article of manufacture of Claim 24, wherein said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to implement at least one of the following:

- (a) include within the data manifest a file attribute;
- (b) include within the data manifest a caption element; and
- (c) include within the data manifest a description element.

26. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein after said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

- (a) display a preview of the Web page to a user; and
- (b) enable a user to edit said Web page.

27. The article of manufacture of Claim 26, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions cause the computer to enable a user to edit said Web page, said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

- (a) enable a user to select a different one of said plurality of templates than was previously selected by the user to generate the Web page;
- (b) automatically use the different template to generate an edited Web page that includes said plurality of thumbnail images displayed according to formatting information provided by said different template;
- (c) display a preview of the edited Web page to a user; and
- (d) enable a user to elect one of the following:
 - (i) continue to edit said edited Web page; and
 - (ii) save said edited Web page.

28. The article of manufacture of Claim 26, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions cause the computer to enable a user to edit said Web page, said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to perform at least one of the following functions:

- (a) enable a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit;
- (b) enable a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to delete; and
- (c) enable a user to select at least one additional original image to include on said Web page, a corresponding thumbnail and a hyperlink between said corresponding thumbnail and each additional original image being automatically generated for each additional original image.

29. The article of manufacture of Claim 28, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions cause the computer to enable a user to select said one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit, said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to perform at least one of the following functions:

- (a) enable a user to resize said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (b) enable a user to crop said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (c) enable a user to rotate said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;

(d) enable a user to add a caption relating to said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;

(e) enable a user to delete an existing caption relating to said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;

(f) enable a user to modify an existing caption relating to said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;

(g) enabling a user to add a description relating to said one of the plurality of thumbnail images;

(h) enabling a user to delete an existing description relating to said one of the plurality of thumbnail images; and

(i) enabling a user to modify an existing description relating to said one of the plurality of thumbnail images.

30. The article of manufacture of Claim 28, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions cause the computer to enable a user to select at least one additional original image to include on said Web page, said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

(a) enable a user to drag and drop said at least one additional original image onto said Web page;

(b) automatically generate a corresponding thumbnail image for each additional original image, and a hyperlink between said corresponding thumbnail image and each additional original image; and

(c) add said hyperlink and said corresponding thumbnail to said Web page.

31. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions cause the computer to enable a user to select the plurality of original images that are to be represented by the plurality of thumbnail images, said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to:

(a) enable a user to import a plurality of original images from a storage;

(b) enable a user to import a plurality of original images from a scanner; and

(c) enable a user to import a plurality of original images from a digital image capture device.

32. The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to enable a user to link individual Web pages together.

33. The article of manufacture of Claim 32, wherein when said plurality of machine instructions cause the computer to enable a user to link individual Web pages together, said plurality of machine instructions further cause the computer to enable a user to add a navigation bar to each Web page to be linked together.

34. A system for enabling a user to automatically introduce a plurality of thumbnail images into a Web page to represent a plurality of original images, each thumbnail image having a size that is substantially smaller than each corresponding original image, said system comprising:

- (a) a memory for storing a plurality of machine instructions;
- (b) a display that displays text and images;
- (c) a user interface that enables a user to provide input to the system; and
- (d) a processor, coupled to the memory, the display, and the user interface, said processor executing the plurality of machine instructions, causing a plurality of functions to be implemented, said plurality of functions including:
 - (i) enabling the user to select the plurality of original images that are to be represented on the Web page by the plurality of thumbnail images;
 - (ii) producing a thumbnail image from each original image;
 - (iii) determining a position of each thumbnail image on the Web page in accord with a format specified by a template;
 - (iv) automatically providing a hyperlink from each thumbnail image to each corresponding original image in the Web page; and
 - (v) enabling the user to save the Web page, which includes the plurality of thumbnail images and hyperlinks to the original images, each thumbnail image appearing in the position specified by the template when the Web page is displayed, selection of a thumbnail image and activation of a hyperlink associated with said thumbnail image causing the corresponding original image to be retrieved for display.

35. The system of Claim 34, wherein the machine instructions cause the processor to prompt a user to select one template from among a plurality of different

templates for determining a format and position of the plurality of thumbnail images in the Web page, the plurality of different templates including at least one of a vertically oriented template that arrays the thumbnail images vertically, a horizontally oriented template that arrays the plurality of thumbnail images horizontally, a slide show oriented template, and a montage template.

36. The system of Claim 35, wherein the function of enabling a user to select said one template from among the plurality of templates comprises the functions of:

- (a) enabling a user to define a custom template;
- (b) enabling a user to save said custom template; and
- (c) including said custom template among the plurality of templates from which the user is enabled to select.

37. The system of Claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of templates comprises an extensible style language file.

38. The system of Claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of templates comprises at least one of: a default number of thumbnail images per row, a default height of each thumbnail image, a default width of each thumbnail image, a title of the template, a description of the template, and a preview image file name.

39. The system of Claim 34, wherein the function of using the template to generate a Web page comprises the functions of:

- (a) building a data manifest in extensible markup language that includes at least thumbnail data and hyperlink data;
- (b) loading an extensible style language file corresponding to the template; and
- (c) using said data manifest and said extensible style language file to generate a hypertext markup language (HTML) file defining said Web page.

40. The system of Claim 39, wherein the function of building a data manifest in extensible markup language comprises the functions of:

- (a) including within the data manifest a thumbnail image height attribute; and
- (b) including within the data manifest a thumbnail image width attribute.

41. The system of Claim 40, wherein the function of building a data manifest in extensible markup language further comprises at least one of the functions of:

- (a) including within the data manifest a file attribute;
- (b) including within the data manifest a caption element; and
- (c) including within the data manifest a description element.

42. The system of Claim 35, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to implement the functions of:

- (a) displaying a preview of the Web page to a user; and
- (b) enabling a user to edit said Web page.

43. The system of Claim 42, wherein the function of enabling a user to edit said Web page includes the functions of:

- (a) enabling a user to select a different one of said plurality of templates than was previously selected to produce the Web page;
- (b) automatically using said different template to generate an edited Web page that includes said plurality of thumbnail images, said plurality of thumbnail images being displayed according to formatting information provided by said different template;
- (c) displaying a preview of the edited Web page to a user; and
- (d) enabling a user to selectively perform one of the following:
 - (i) continuing to edit said edited Web page; and
 - (ii) saving said edited Web page.

44. The system of Claim 42, wherein the function of enabling a user to edit said Web page comprises at least one of the functions of:

- (a) enabling a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit;
- (b) enabling a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit; and
- (c) enabling a user to select at least one additional original image to include on said Web page, a corresponding thumbnail for each additional original image and a hyperlink between said corresponding thumbnail and each additional original image being automatically generated, and said corresponding thumbnail being added to said Web page.

45. The system of Claim 44, wherein the function of enabling a user to select one of the plurality of thumbnail images to edit comprises at least one of the functions of:

- (a) enabling a user to resize one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (b) enabling a user to crop one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (c) enabling a user to rotate one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (d) enabling a user to add a caption relating to one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (e) enabling a user to delete an existing caption relating to one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (f) enabling a user to modify an existing caption relating to one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (g) enabling a user to add a description relating to one of the plurality of thumbnail images;
- (h) enabling a user to delete an existing description relating to one of the plurality of thumbnail images; and
- (i) enabling a user to modify an existing description relating to one of the plurality of thumbnail images.

46. The system of Claim 44, wherein the function of enabling a user to select at least one additional original image to include on said Web page comprises the function of enabling a user to drag and drop said at least one additional original image onto said Web page, a corresponding thumbnail for each additional original image and a hyperlink between said corresponding thumbnail and each additional original image being automatically generated, and said corresponding thumbnail being added to said Web page.

47. The system of Claim 34, wherein the function of enabling a user to select the plurality of original images that are to be represented by the plurality of thumbnail images comprises at least one of the functions of:

- (a) enabling a user to import a plurality of original images from a storage to which the system is coupled;
- (b) enabling a user to import a plurality of original images from a scanner to which the system is coupled; and
- (c) enabling a user to import a plurality of original images from a digital image capture device to which the system is coupled.

48. The system of Claim 34, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to implement the function of enabling a user to link individual Web pages together.

49. The system of Claim 48, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to implement the function of enabling a user to add a navigation bar to each Web page to be linked together, thereby generating a Web site.